



Week 2: Climate and Food September 14, 2025

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

For our Season of Creation this year, we are joining congregations across Canada in CLWR's Friends of Creation campaign. Throughout September, we'll reflect on God's call to steward the earth by looking at how climate intersects with food, water, peace, and local economies around Lake Chad, at the frontlines of climate change. Together, we'll reflect, pray, and have a chance to take action to help restore land and livelihoods in one of the world's most vulnerable regions.

With matching grants, every \$50 raised can restore 1 acre of land around Lake Chad. Our Good Shepherd goal to restore 50 acres of land around Lake Chad, so our target is to raise \$2500 before the end of the year. Every dollar helps! Special gifts toward Friends of Creation can be designated through your offering envelopes and e-transfers. Gifts can also be given directly to our special fundraising page with CLWR.

After today's worship we will celebrate **Everybody's Birthday with cake & coffee downstairs**

The installation service of Larry Kochendorfer as our ELCIC National Bishop will be held in Winnipeg on Saturday, September 27. Everyone is welcome to join the service online from home or here at Good Shepherd. We will be gathering in the sanctuary to celebrate together at 3 pm, with communion, followed by a light lunch and time for visiting.

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 2 we read, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” In the beginning, God placed humankind in a garden—not just to eat from it, but to tend it with care. To till it, yes—but also to keep it. The land was given as a gift, and with it, a calling: to be stewards of the earth and of one another.

One of the gardens of God’s creation is the Lake Chad region, in Central and West Africa. Once full of fish, farmland, and fruit-bearing trees, this area has long sustained families who rely on farming, fishing, and livestock to survive. But today, the land is struggling.

On this second Sunday in the Season of Creation, we join with churches across Canada in lifting up **food** in our CLWR Friends of Creation campaign. We know in our own agricultural region how important healthy land, fresh water, and good weather are to the farms and ranches that produce food.

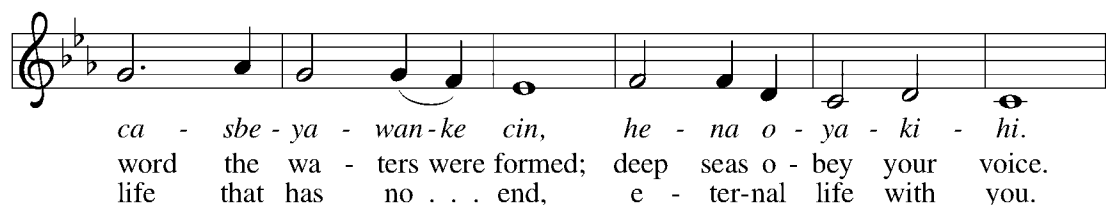
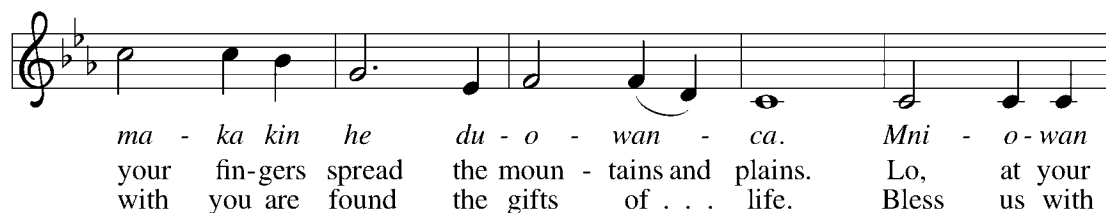
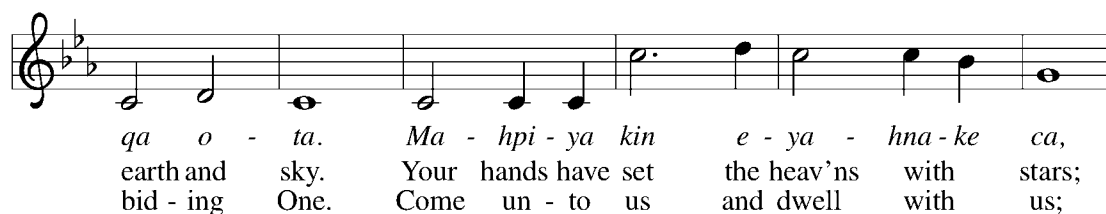
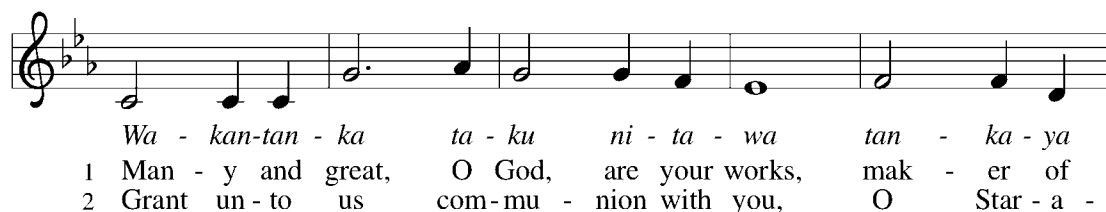
Around Lake Chad in Central Africa, farming depends totally on rainfall. Shorter growing seasons and unreliable rainfall are making it harder for farmers to grow enough food, and malnutrition is a growing concern, especially among children. CLWR’s work around Lake Chad tackles food security at all levels to restore the resilience of the land and the people.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds on the God who created the earth and all that dwell within it.

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,
the name of +Christ, the pulse of life,
and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

Silence

"Many and Great, O God" ELW 837



You cause the grass to grow for the cattle
and plants for people to cultivate,
to bring forth food from the earth

and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine
and bread to strengthen the human heart.

"For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW 679 v 1



The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

**In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coneys.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
**When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.**

People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.

"For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW 679 v 2

In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

"For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW 679 v 3

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

It is our delight to pray. Creator God, you have entrusted us to care not only for your creation, but for one another. Help us to do your will, to make sustainable choices in our caring for this earth you have blessed us with, and help us to always be mindful of how our choices impact the health and well-being of others. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Genesis 2:4-9

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

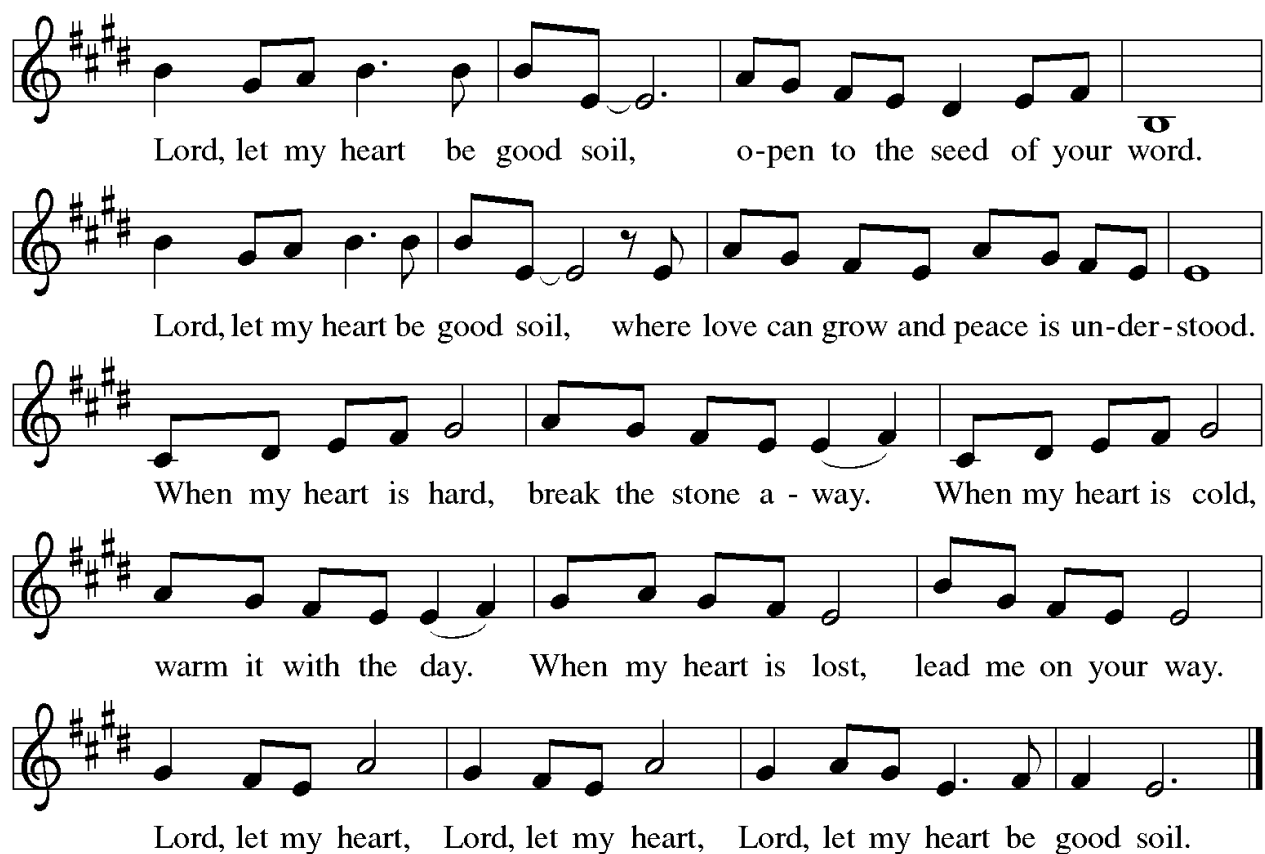
In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Song leader invites the congregation to stand

GOSPEL VERSE “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW₅₁₂



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "God of the Fertile Fields" ACS 1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (SOC 2020 Australia)

<https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/liturgy-river-sunday-1.pdf>

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things, and celebrates all things

We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood,
became one in and with creation,
a human being called Jesus Christ,
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation,
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation,
groans in empathy with a suffering creation
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe in the church and, as created beings,
In the communion we share in kinship with all creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Reis, Amy, Logan & Tegan Cooper
Marlene Lund
and Cliff & Pat Weir

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place? If so, respond, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ? If so, respond "We do, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome *these sisters and brothers* in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Amen! We give thanks for what God is doing among us. (applause)

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God, our Loving Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep gratitude and our concern for all in need, including all of our companions who share this Earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, Creator of the universe, you know and love all you have made. With great trust we lift our prayers to you for all that you've created.

We pray for your church across the world, O God. Create within it a new call to be faithful to the gospel in word and witness. We ask your blessing on Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Cathy as they settle into a new city and a new calling. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray that you will protect and preserve the land that you've created – habitats and biospheres, especially in places damaged by natural disaster or human mismanagement. Restore balance to deserts, oceans, polar regions, and temperate areas. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray for nations across the world where resources have been ravaged, and land damaged beyond repair. Only you and you alone can bring about change in the hearts of world leaders and everyone in power to make caring for the land a priority. Grant us all wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We pray for the sick, the broken-hearted, and all in need of your care. Especially we pray for Myrtle, Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Kyra, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather, Alan and those we name silently now. Give them strength to face each new day, assured of your love and care. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We give thanks for gathering us together in person and online today. We give thanks too for our new members and we pray that, as they worship with us, their faith may be strengthened and their love for you grow. Bind us all together as a community of forgiveness and love. Bless the Woman's book study group, and be near to Ann Busch and Carolyn Coverdale. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans in your loving care. Wherever we are, help us to respond to the needs of others with Christlike compassion. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

We give thanks for the saints and their models of faithful living, especially those who have been faithful stewards of the land. Give us hope as we look toward the day when we will join them in your eternal presence. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of Creator God,
the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" ELW 538

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

SENDING

Go in peace, serve Christ, care for the Earth.
Thanks be to God! We will!

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LITURGY AND SERMON NOTES

Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Friends of Creation Resources
<https://www.clwr.org/foc-resources>

BACKGROUND PHOTO

Oldman River, Lethbridge – photo by Darcy Calkins

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